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Buffalo, NY 14221

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

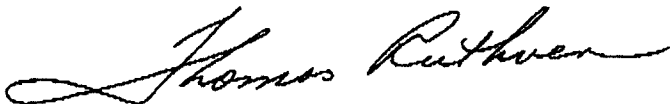
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my views on the proposed settlement arrived at between the Department of Justice and Microsoft recently. In my estimation, the settlement is very excessive for Microsoft but more than fair for the federal and state government. It is time for this case to come to an end.

My reasons for being dissatisfied with the way this suit has been going extend far beyond my concerns for the economy and the IT industry, I am also displeased with the way the government has pursued this. The Government has given the public plenty of reason to doubt the existence of free enterprise. Despite the unfairness of the suit, Microsoft has been very willing to cooperate. They have agreed to uniform prices, disclosure of both Windows' protocol, and sharing internal interfaces in Windows. Microsoft has also agreed to grant intellectual property license to their competitors.

The settlement offers a workable end to this lawsuit, and the possibility for a very strong shot in the economy's arm. I trust that my input and those of others will aid in wrapping up this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ruthven